




PROPHECY ODYSSEY

12

The Holy of Holies

AN AMAZING FACT:



A “cleanroom” is a meticulously controlled environment that filters out pollutants like dust, airborne microbes, and aerosol particles to provide a space with some of the purest air on Earth. Many companies have cleanrooms to protect the production of products like semiconductors, nanobots, medicine, and medical equipment. In these virtually particle-free rooms, outside air passes through a powerful system that decontaminates the air while also controlling the pressure, temperature, and humidity. This is a big job because a human in motion generates about 5 million particles per minute! This is why workers in a cleanroom must wear special lint-free jumpsuits, booties, face masks, and goggles. The development of cleanrooms goes back to the 1860s when Scottish surgeon Joseph Lister sought to limit the presence of bacteria in hospital operating rooms.

After 200 years of living as slaves in Egypt, surrounded by paganism and idolatry, the children of Israel had lost their awareness of God’s holiness and the deadly nature of sin.

After saving them from slavery, the Lord needed to do something vital before He could take them into the Promised Land—teach them how to be forgiven of



their sins and how to maintain holy lives. The key motivating force for this transformation was how much God loved them and wanted to be with them. But God couldn't dwell with His people without first cleansing them from their sins.

To illustrate these powerful principles of salvation, God had the children of Israel build a three-dimensional structure that they would carry with them through the wilderness and into the Promised Land, a structure that still has so much to teach us today ...



When you see a blank, use your Bible to look up the missing word and fill it in.



What did God ask Moses to build, and why?

EXODUS 25:8 *Let them make Me a _____, that I may _____ among them.*

PSALM 77:13 *Your _____, O God, is in the sanctuary.*

NOTE: God's way, or plan, of salvation was revealed in the earthly sanctuary. Everything in the temple and its services was a symbol of something Jesus would do to save humanity. It is difficult to fully comprehend the plan of salvation until we understand the sanctuary. It was a huge, 3D object lesson!

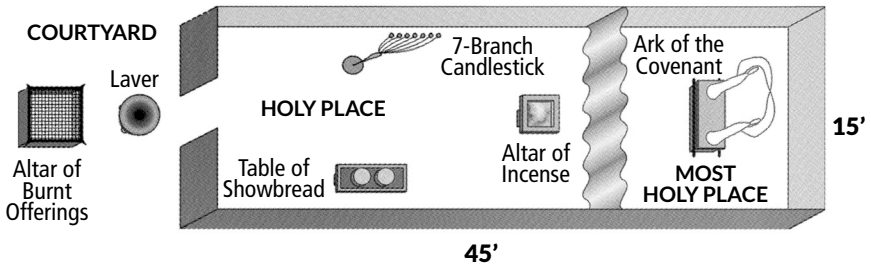


Where did Moses obtain the blueprints for the sanctuary?

EXODUS 25:40 *See to it that you make them according to the _____ which was shown you on the _____.*

NOTE: God gave the sanctuary blueprints to Moses on Mount Sinai (Hebrews 8:5). It was a microcosm of God's genuine sanctuary in heaven. The first sanctuary, or tabernacle, was a tent-type structure, 15 feet by 45 feet. There, the supernatural presence of God dwelt as special services were conducted. The walls were made of acacia wood boards set in silver sockets and overlaid with gold (Exodus 26:15–19, 29). The roof was made of four layers of coverings: linen, goat hair, ram skins dyed red, and badger skins (vv. 1, 7, 14). It had two rooms: the holy place (15 feet by 30 feet) and the most holy place (15 feet by 15 feet). Refer to the diagram below as you review this lesson.

THE SANCTUARY



What furniture was in the courtyard?

EXODUS 29:18 *You shall burn the whole ram on the _____. It is a _____ offering to the LORD.*

EXODUS 30:18 *You shall also make a _____ of bronze, with its base also of bronze. ... And you shall put water in it.*

NOTE: The **altar of burnt offerings** (Exodus 27:1–8) was where animals were sacrificed. It was located just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. This altar represented the cross of Christ. The sacrificial animal represented Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice (John 1:29). The **laver** (Exodus 30:17–21; 38:8) was a large wash basin of brass located between the altar and the entrance of the sanctuary. There, priests washed their hands and feet before entering the sanctuary or offering a sacrifice. The water represented baptism, cleansing from sin, and the new birth.



4 What three items of furniture were in the holy place?

NUMBERS 4:7 On the _____ of _____ they shall spread a blue cloth, ... and the showbread shall be on it.

NUMBERS 8:2 When you arrange the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the _____.

EXODUS 30:1 You shall make an _____ to burn _____ on; you shall make it of acacia wood.

NOTE: The **table of showbread** (Exodus 25:23–30) represented Jesus, the living bread (John 6:51). The **seven-branch candlestick** (Exodus 25:31–40) represented Jesus, the light of the world (John 9:5; 1:9). The lamps of oil symbolized the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:1–6; Revelation 4:5). And the **altar of incense** (Exodus 30:1–8) represented the prayers of God’s people (Revelation 5:8).



5 What special article was in the most holy place?

DEUTERONOMY 10:4, 5 He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten _____. ... Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets _____ the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me.

EXODUS 26:34 You shall put the mercy seat upon the _____ of the Testimony in the Most Holy.

NOTE: The only object in the most holy place was the **ark of the testimony**, a chest of acacia wood overlaid with gold (Exodus 25:10, 11); it contained the Ten Commandments (v. 21). Atop the chest was the mercy seat, a covering on which two angels faced each other from opposite ends, all made of pure gold (vv. 17–21). This spot symbolized God’s throne in heaven (Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 6:1, 2). It was here, above the mercy seat in the inner sanctum, where God spoke to Moses (Exodus 25:22).



The Bible says God's sanctuary was holy (Leviticus 16:33), and so was Jesus' life—how should His followers live?

1 PETER 1:15, 16 *As He who called you is _____, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be _____, for I am holy."*

1 PETER 2:9 *You are a chosen generation, a royal _____, a _____ nation, His own special people."*

NOTE: As a member of God's holy nation, every believer is called to be holy—to be set apart from the world. God calls His people to turn toward Him and away from sin. Though we might fail at times to meet this lofty ideal, believers should always aim to be like Jesus as they cooperate with His enabling grace.



What was to be a guiding principle for the clothing God's priests would wear?

EXODUS 28:42 *You shall make for them linen trousers to cover their _____; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.*

EXODUS 20:26 *Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be _____ on it.*

NOTE: A guiding principle for followers of Jesus should be cleanliness and modesty in their choice of clothing. Today's sexually suggestive fashions encourage much temptation and debt. While God does not intend for His people to wear burlap, unduly expensive and flamboyant clothing should not be part of a Christian's wardrobe.



Does the Bible discourage believers from wearing jewelry and fancy clothing?

1 TIMOTHY 2:9 *In like manner also, that the women [and men] adorn themselves in _____ apparel, ... not with braided hair or _____ or pearls or costly clothing.*

1 PETER 3:3, 4 *Do _____ let your adornment be merely _____—arranging the hair, _____ gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

ISAIAH 3:18–21 *In that day the Lord will take away the finery: the jingling _____, ... the pendants, the _____, and the veils; the headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; the perfume boxes, the _____, and the _____; the nose jewels.*

NOTE: Yes! God teaches that modest clothing is the pattern for Christians to follow. Although the wearing of jewelry is widely accepted in the world, it has a negative image in Scripture. You may not recognize all the items mentioned in Isaiah 3:18–23, but people in other parts of the world do. Many of these pagan ornaments are now appearing in Western culture. Remember, it was from their jewelry that the children of Israel forged a golden calf that they then worshiped (Exodus 32:2–4).



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What commonsense rule did God have for priests, kings, and prophets to maintain holy conduct?

LEVITICUS 10:9 *Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you _____. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.*

PROVERBS 31:4, 5 *It is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the _____, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.*

LUKE 1:15 *For he [John the Baptist]... shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the _____.*

NOTE: Christians should abstain from all alcoholic/fermented beverages in order to keep their minds clear and to hear God's Spirit (Proverbs 23:31, 32; 1 Peter 5:8). The word "wine" in the Bible can mean either fermented or unfermented grape juice. The same is true of the word "cider" today. Proverbs 23:29–32 gives the Bible's description of fermented wine, and God says that we should not even look at it! The only wine Christians should use is "new wine," which is unfermented grape juice. "New wine is found in the cluster" (Isaiah 65:8). This is the wine that Jesus made for the wedding feast (John 2:1–11).



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Did God make a distinction regarding which animals His people could sacrifice and eat?

GENESIS 8:20 *Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every _____ animal and of every _____ bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

LEVITICUS 11:3 *Whatever divides the _____, having cloven hooves and chewing the _____.*

LEVITICUS 11:9 *Whatever in the water has _____ and _____, ... that you may eat.*

NOTE: To make things simple for us, God has placed all creatures into one of two categories: clean and unclean. He permits us to eat those that are clean but has declared the unclean creatures unfit for food. All mammals declared clean share two characteristics: (1) cloven hooves and (2) chew the cud. For example, a pig has cloven hooves but does not chew its cud, so it is unclean. Clean water creatures have both fins and scales—meaning eels, shellfish, frogs, turtles, shrimp, and sharks are unfit as food. With birds, the rule is that all raptors and birds of carrion are unclean. Foraging birds that scratch and peck (chickens, quail, pheasants, turkeys) can be eaten. Notice here that God's categories of clean and unclean beasts have existed since Creation. We are all related to Noah, who lived long before the Jews.



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Why does God say that eating unclean food is a serious offense?

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19 *Do you not know that your _____ is the _____ of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16, 17 *Do you not know that you are the _____ of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will _____ him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

ISAIAH 66:15, 17 *For behold, the LORD will _____ with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind. ... "Those who sanctify themselves, ... eating _____ flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be _____ together," says the LORD.*

NOTE: In the first chapter of Daniel, the Hebrew prophet and his friends refused to defile themselves by eating Babylonian food. As a result of their courage, God greatly blessed and honored them. There is a direct connection between what we eat and drink and our mental clarity, ability to resist temptation, and capacity to distinguish between right and wrong. Everything a Christian does—including eating and drinking—should be done to God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). Any substance or unhealthy practice that damages the body must be laid aside. This includes harmful drugs (such as tobacco in all its forms) and the many drinks that contain the highly addictive drug caffeine.



What should a Christian choose to think about?

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 *Whatever things are _____, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are _____, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any _____ and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

PSALM 101:3 *I will set _____ wicked before my _____.*

COLOSSIANS 3:2 *Set your mind on things _____, not on things on the _____.*

NOTE: Christians should avoid watching sex and violence as a form of entertainment. Jesus taught that sin originates in our thoughts and attitudes (Matthew 5:28). In the days of Noah, the world was destroyed because a whole generation was obsessed with evil thoughts and violence (Genesis 6:5, 11). Therefore, a Christian should avoid programs, videos, or reading material that would encourage impure thoughts.



What does the Bible say about worldly behavior?

JAMES 4:4 *Whoever therefore wants to be a _____ of the world makes himself an _____ of God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 6:17 *Come out from among them and be _____, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.*

1 JOHN 2:15 *If anyone loves the _____, the love of the Father is _____ in him.*

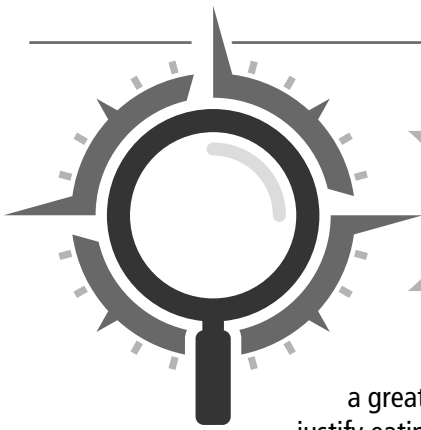
ROMANS 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this _____, but be transformed by the _____ of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

NOTE: God is calling His people today to model the holy life of Jesus in this fallen world to help others prepare for His soon return.

» YOUR RESPONSE

Jesus warns that without holiness, we cannot be with Him in His kingdom (Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14). At the same time, He offers to wash away our sins and cover us with His holy life if we trust Him. Will you choose now to come to Him as a living sacrifice, to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him? You will find "joy inexpressible and full of glory"! (1 Peter 1:8).

ANSWER: _____



FURTHER STUDY

Understanding Peter's Vision

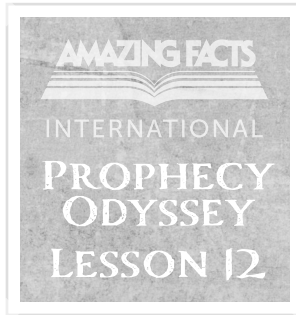
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Many have tried to use Peter's vision of a great sheet full of animals (Acts 10:9–28) to justify eating unclean food. They say it proves that Jesus taught His disciples it was acceptable to eat any living creature.

However, each time the sheet came down and Peter was asked to "kill and eat," he responded, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean" (Acts 10:14). Notice that even after three and a half years of listening to Jesus' teachings, Peter had not received the slightest hint or impression that eating unclean food was permissible. It is also interesting that in his vision, Peter never ate anything from the sheet.

Peter's vision was not intended to sanctify unclean animals. The fact that he wondered what the vision meant (v. 17) indicates a symbolic meaning, which he himself explained in verse 28: "God has shown me that I should not call any *man* common or unclean" (emphasis added). And in verse 34, the apostle summarized the point of the vision when he said, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."

God's message to Peter had to do with cleansing people, not animals. This vision was given to impress the Jewish disciples that they should not call the Gentiles unclean and that the gospel was to be freely proclaimed to all peoples.



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